

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 11011 050922Z

16

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4267

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11011

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MY RP ID

SUBJ: ISLAMIC SEC GEN AL-TOHAMY'S CONCILIATION PLANS;

RAZAK VISIT TO INDONESIA

REF: A. MANILA 10534 B. KUALA LUMPUR 4286

1. DURING MEETING WITH FONMIN MALIK SEPTEMBER 5, I ASKED HIM ABOUT RECENT VISIT TO JAKARTA OF ISLAMIC SEC GEN AL-TOHAMY. MALIK REPLIED HE GLAD I ASKED QUESTION AND LAUNCHED INTO ACCOUNT OF WHAT AL-TOHAMY UP TO IN MANILA, JAKARTA AND KUALA LUMPUR.

2. ACCORDING TO MALIK, AL-HOMANY'S SOLE REASON FOR TRIP TO PHILIPPINES WAS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE (\$200,000) FROM ISLAMIC BANK TO MOSLEMS IN MINDANO. USING THIS AS LEVER AL-TOHAMY TOLD MARCOS BANK ASSISTANCE CANNOT BE EXTENDED UNTIL FIGHTING HAS STOPPED. (PRIVATELY AL-TOHAMY SAID AS MUCH AS \$2 MILLION MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE MADE AVAILABLE). MARCOS WAS REPORTEDLY HAPPY TO HEAR THIS AND ASKED AL-TOHAMY TO HELP SET UP TALKS WITH REBELS.

3. AS PART OF HIS EFFORTS AL-TOHAMY WISHED TO MEET SUHARTO AND RAZAK. SUHARTO, FEARING POSSIBLE ADVERSE
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PAGE 02 JAKART 11011 050922Z

MARCOS REACTION TO SUCH A MEETING, ASKED MALIK AHD HIS

STAFF TO MEET WITH AL-TOHAMY WHICH THEY DID AUGUST 31 IMMEDIATELY AFTER RETURNING FROM PRESIDENT'S BURMA-SINGAPORE TRIP. MALIK SAID IN MEETING WITH AL-TOHAMY HE ASKED WHAT COULD INDONESIA DO TO HELP, SINCE PROBLEM BASICALLY AN INTERNAL PHILIPPINE ONE WITH MIXTURE OF SABAH INVOLVEMENT, AND NOTING SUHARTO HAD TRIED TO MEDIATE UNTIL HE FOUND NUR MISUARI WANTED A MORO REPUBLIC. MALIK SAID HE WARNED AL-TOHAMY NOT TO TRUST NUR MISUARI-WHO IN ANY CASE ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT REBEL LEADERS-AND TO "GET EVERYTHING IN WRITING." MALIK SAID HE SUGGESTED AL-TOHAMY ALSO MEET WITH REBEL LEADERS IN KUALA LUMPUR AND WITH TUN MUSTAPHA, BUT "RAZAK INSISTED TALKS BE OUTSIDE OF KUALA LUMPUR."

4. AS REGARDS ANY EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOP AND REBELS, MALIK SAID HE SUGGESTED TO AL-TOHAMY THAT TALKS BE IN PHILIPPINES, THROUGH INDONESIA WOULD BE GLAD TO SERVE AS LOCUS IF MARCOS CLEARLY REQUESTED.

5. MALIK SAID THAT HE HAD URGED AL-TOHAMY TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO MEDIATE GOP-REBEL PROBLEM BEFORE AND DURING RAMADAN (WHEN MOSLEMS NOT SUPPOSED TO FIGHT) WITH HOPES OF REACHING SETTLEMENT BY MUTUAL FORGIVENESS PERIOD AT END OF RAMADAN. HE SAID HE HAD URGED AL-TOHAMY TO LEAVE SABAH QUESTION ALONE (TO BE HANDLED BY GOP AND GOM LATER, PERHAPS WITH GOI MEDIATION) AND AL-TOHAMY HAD AGREED SABAH "TOO TRICKY."

6. LATER IN CONVERSATION WHEN I ASKED MALIK ABOUT REPORTS SUHARTO AND RAZAK WOULD MEET, MALIK SAID THERE WAS CURIOUS INTERCHANGE BETWEEN TWO LEADERS. RAZAK FIRST ASKED SUHARTO TO MEET HIM IN BALI WHERE HE WOULD BE VACATIONING; SUHARTO REPLIED HE HAD NOTHING WHICH NEEDED TO BE DISCUSSED; RAZAK THEN SAID HE HAD A MATTER HE WISHED TO RAISE BUT DID NOT WANT TO COME TO JAKARTA SINCE HE HAD SAID PUBLICLY IN KUALA LUMPUR THAT BALI VISIT WAS FOR RELAXATION. AFTER SUHARTO HAD TURNED DOWN BALI, AND RAZAK YOGYAKARTA(WHICH SUHARTO HAD ALSO OFFERED) TWO AGREED TO MEET SEPTEMBER 9 AT SURABAYA AIRPORT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 JAKARTA 11011 050922Z

7. COMMENT: WHILE MALIK GAVE NO HINT AS TO SUBJECT RAZAK MIGHT WISH TO RAISE-AND INDEED IMPLIED HE DID NOT KNOW- IT IS POSSIBLE THAT RAZAK WISHES DISCUSS AL-TOHAMY PLAN WITH SUHARTO.
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